

Appln. No. 09/594,875
Amendment dated June 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 28, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The March 28, 2005 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and amended, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 8-10 are allowed is acknowledged and appreciated.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Office Action claim 5 is objected to because of certain informalities. In response, Applicant respectfully states that the recording means is not the same as the recording apparatus. The recording means is, for example, a semiconductor memory device in a camera and the recording apparatus is, for example, a hard disc of a master unit. Claim 5 is amended in a sincere effort to more clearly point out that the recording means and the recording apparatus are different.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendment of claim 5, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 5 are respectfully requested.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,535,243 (Tullis). Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USP 6,392,697 (Tanaka et al.). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tullis in view of USP 6,262,767 (Wakui). Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka et al. in view of USP 5,943,517 (Sato).

The present claimed invention as defined by amended claim 5 is directed to an electronic camera including processing means for compression processing an image obtained by sensing, recording means for recording the processed image as an image file, and transmission means for transmitting the image file recorded in the recording means upon receiving base station identification information of a master unit in position registration processing according to movement, the master unit having registered a self device as a subsidiary unit. The transmission means transmits only an image unrecorded in a

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recording apparatus of the master unit to the master unit and the image file is recorded in the recording apparatus of the master unit upon being transmitted to the master unit by the transmission means.

USP 6,535,243 (Tullis) discloses an electronic camera system including a host computer 10 having a transceiver function and a handheld digital camera 40 having a transceiver function. The system sends image data of an image captured by the digital camera 40 to the host computer 10 through a wireless communications link 20. Then, after performing predetermined image processing on the image data sent from the system, the host computer 10 performs compression processing on the data to record it in a memory 16. The host computer also sends the image data back to the electronic camera 40. Consequently, the electronic camera 40 can reproduce the image data subjected to processing by the host computer 10, immediately after receiving the data therefrom, with a structure which does not include an image processing unit.

The host computer 10 and the digital camera 40 of Tullis are linked by the wireless communications link 20. They are inseparably related to each other as a system, and must be used together. That is, the digital camera 40 cannot fulfill its

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complete function unless it is used in combination with the host computer 10.

In rejecting claim 5 as being anticipated by Tullis, the Examiner states that column 6, lines 34-63 teach the limitation regarding the transmission means found in the last paragraph of claim 5.

Claim 5 recites that "the transmission means transmits only an image unrecorded in a recording apparatus of the master unit to the master unit and the image file is recorded in the recording apparatus of the master unit upon being transmitted to the master unit by the transmission means." This feature is explained at page 17 of the present application, wherein it is stated that the electronic camera reads out file names of the image data recorded on the camera memory card, outputs them to the PHS unit 7 through the interface section 41, and causes the PHS unit 7 to transmit the file names to the electronic album apparatus 5 through the private base station 4. On the side of the electronic album apparatus 5 which has received the file names through the private base station 4, the control section 71 compares them with the file names of a number of image data recorded in the large-capacity recording section 73. Only file names that do not coincide are output to the private base station through the interface section 72 as the file names of

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untransmitted image data and returned to the electronic camera 6 through the PHS unit 7.

Tullis does not disclose, teach or suggest that the transmission means of the camera transmits only an image unrecorded in the recording apparatus of the master unit to the master unit and the image file is recorded in the recording apparatus of the master unit upon being transmitted to the master unit by the transmission means. Column 6, lines 34-63 of Tullis teach that the hand-held digital camera 40 captures image data which is compressed by a processor 56 and is then transferred to the camera transceiver 72 where the image data is processed for wireless transmission to the host computer 10. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of selective transmission of images from the camera to the master unit as recited in claim 5.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 5 and Tullis. Therefore, claim 5 is patentable over Tullis and all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claim 6 further defines and limits the invention recited in claim 5. Claim 6 is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 5 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of limitations set forth in claim 6.

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Independent claim 14 is directed to an electronic camera system including an electronic camera having a unique identification code and being capable of transferring image sensing data stored in non-volatile storage means to a predetermined partner by data communication compatible to a personal handy phone system (PHS). The electronic camera stores the image sensing data in the non-volatile storage means. The electronic camera system also includes a base station unit of the personal handy phone system which has a unique identification code and a predetermined storage unit and is capable of data communication compatible to the personal handy phone system. The base station performs data communication with the electronic camera and stores the transferred image sensing data in the predetermined storage unit.

In rejecting claim 14 the Examiner relies upon Tanaka et al.

Tanaka et al. (USP 6,392,697) disclose a display device 4 comprising a CCD camera 10 and a touch panel, and a portable transmission terminal 1 comprising the display device 4. The portable transmission terminal 1 is not a PHS (personal handy phone system) having a base/handset relation.

In response to the rejection of claim 14, claim 14 has been amended to specifically recite that the base station unit is a

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base station unit of a personal handy phone system (PHS) and that the electronic camera transmits the image sensing data via a personal handy phone system (PHS) to the base station unit. Tanaka et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest an electronic camera system including a base station unit of a personal handy phone system, as recited in amended claim 14.

In view of the foregoing, claim 14 is patentable over the cited reference under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

The other references of record do not close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 14 and Tanaka et al. Therefore, claim 14 is patentable over Tanaka et al. and all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claim 15 is dependent on claim 14 and is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 14 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 15.

Claim 16 is directed to an electronic camera capable of communication on a personal handy phone system (PHS) including an image processing unit configured to process image data obtained by an image of the camera, a storage unit configured to store the image data as an image file by assigning a unique file number, and a communication unit configured to communicate with a

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specified communication unit when the specified communication unit is found to establish mutual communication. The communication unit transmits the image file stored in the storage unit to the specified communication unit if the image file is determined that it is not previously sent to the specified communication unit.

Claim 16 recites that the communication unit transmits the image file stored in the storage unit to the specified communication unit if it is determined that the image file was not previously sent to the specified communication unit.

In rejecting claim 16, the Examiner relies upon Tanaka et al. in view of Sato.

Sato (USP 5,943,517) discloses an electro-developing type camera using an electro-developing recording medium. Image data stored in a memory medium device 74 or recorded in an electro-developing recording medium can be transferred to an external PC via an output terminal connector 26.

Neither Tanaka et al., Sato, nor any of the other references of record teach a communication unit which transmits an image file stored in the storage unit to the specified communication unit if it is determined that the image file was not previously sent to the communication unit.

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In view of the foregoing, claim 16 is patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well 35 USC 103.

Claim 17 is dependent on claim 16 and further defines and limits the invention defined by claim 16. Claim 17 is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 16 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 17.

In view of all of the foregoing, claims 5, 6 and 14-17 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 18 is added to the present application. New claim 18 is dependent on claim 14 and further defines and limits the invention recited in claim 14. Specifically, claim 18 recites that the electronic camera transfers only image sensing data which is unrecorded in the predetermined storage unit of the base station unit to the base station unit and the image sensing data is recorded in the predetermined storage unit of the base station unit upon being transmitted by the electronic camera. This limitation is similar to the limitation recited in claim 5. Claim 18 is patentable over the references of record in view of its dependence on claim 14 and because the references do not

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disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 18.

It is respectfully believed that no additional fees are due for the presentation of claim 18. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

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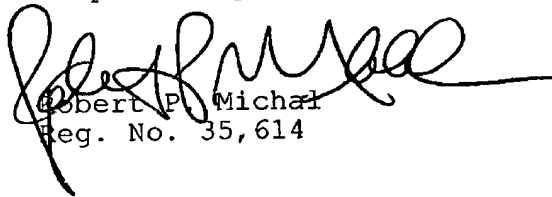
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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